

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps having a working position and a separation position, comprising:

a first component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said first component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~, and the first component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the first component; said handle and said intermediate portion of said first component having smoothly contoured surfaces adapted to be readily sterilizable by preventing lodging of biological matter and to prevent injury to the mouth of a patient; and said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said first component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved portion having an edge approximating a portion of

a circular arc; said straight edge portions of said opposed extending elements of said first component having respective straight flat edges extending approximately colinearly with each other; said central body portion of said first component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

a second component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said second component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~, and the second component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the second component; said handle and said intermediate portion of said second component having smoothly contoured surfaces adapted to be readily sterilizable by preventing lodging of biological matter and to prevent injury to the mouth of a patient; and said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said second component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved portion having an edge approximating a portion of a circular arc; said straight edged portions of said opposed extending elements of said second component having respective straight flat edges extending approximately colinearly with each other; said central body portion of said second component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly

contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ of said first component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component; wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements of said second component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component; and wherein in said working position said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said first component being in facing contact with said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said second component; and

wherein in said separation position, said two opposed extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ of said first component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component, and said two opposed extending elements of said second component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component;

wherein the beaks of said first component and of said second component are angled with respect to the long axis of the handle such that they meet to form a jaw adapted for extraction of a lower mandibular tooth;

whereby in said working position, said first component is hingedly connected to said second component and cannot be manually separated therefrom; and

whereby in said separation position, said first component can be manually removed from said second component such that said first and second components can be readily sterilized.

2. (currently amended) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally in parallel with a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

3. (currently amended) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally transversely to a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

4. (previously presented) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of steel.

5. (previously presented) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said

first component and said second component are composed of plastic.

6. (previously presented) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of transparent material and serve as light pipes.

7. (previously presented) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a lamp element attached to a free end of a handle portion of said first component, connected so as to direct light through the handle portion and into said intermediate portion and said beak portion.

8. (previously presented) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising at least one friction engagement element disposed on a surface of each respective one of said intermediate portions of said first and second components, such that in a working position the first and second components will be retained in their relative positions by frictional forces therebetween, while being manually movable into other positions by a force sufficient to overcome the frictional force therebetween.

9. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps adapted to be readily cleanable having rounded external contours adapted for use inside a mouth of a human being, and having a working position and a separation position, such that in the working position only smoothly rounded contours come into contact with the tissue of the mouth, comprising:

a first component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said first component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements, and the first component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the first component; said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said first component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved portion having an edge approximating a portion of a circular arc; said central body portion of said first component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

a second component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said second component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements, and the second component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the

second component; said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said second component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved; said straight edged portions of said opposed extending elements of said second component having respective straight flat edges extending approximately colinearly with each other; said central body portion of said second component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements of said first component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component; wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements of said second component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component; and wherein in said working position said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said first component being in facing contact with said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said second component; and

wherein in said separation position, said two opposed extending elements of said first component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component, and said two opposed extending elements of said second component are not engaged within respective ones of

said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component;

whereby in said working position, said first component is hingedly connected to said second component and cannot be manually separated therefrom;

whereby in said separation position, said first component can be manually removed from said second component; and

whereby the smoothly contoured surfaces are adapted to be readily cleanable by manual wiping.

10. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally in parallel with a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

11. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally transversely to a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

12. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction

forceps as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of steel.

13. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of plastic.

14. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps having a working position and a separation position, comprising:

a first component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said first component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements, and the first component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the first component; said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said first component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved portion having an edge approximating a portion of a circular arc; said straight edge portions of said opposed extending elements of said first component having respective straight flat edges extending approximately colinearly with each other; said central body portion of said first component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly

contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

a second component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said second component having an oblong central body portion having two opposed extending elements, and the second component having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the second component; said two opposed extending elements each being a relatively thin portion extending outwardly from said central body portion of said second component, each of said relatively thin portions having a straight edge portion and a smoothly curved portion; said straight edged portions of said opposed extending elements of said second component having respective straight flat; said central body portion of said second component having a substantially flat side and an opposite side which is smoothly contoured so as to have no sharp edges;

wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements of said first component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component; wherein in said working position, said two opposed extending elements of said second component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component; and wherein in said working position said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said first component being in facing contact with said substantially flat side of said central body portion of said

second component; and

wherein in said separation position, said two opposed extending elements of said first component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component, and said two opposed extending elements of said second component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said first component;

whereby in said working position, said first component is hingedly connected to said second component and cannot be manually separated therefrom; and

whereby in said separation position, said first component can be manually removed from said second component wherein said first component and said second component are composed of transparent material and serve as light pipes; and

further comprising a lamp element attached to a free end of said handle of said first component, connected so as to direct light through said handle and into said intermediate portion and said beak portion, such that light is emitted radially outwardly from the two opposed extending elements, from the handle of said first component, and from the beak portion of said first component.

15. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said beak of said first

component and said beak of said second component extend generally in parallel with a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

16. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally transversely to a centerline between said handle portions when said first component and said second component are in said working position.

17. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of transparent material.

18. (new) A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of transparent plastic material.